

# STRIKERS TALKING IT OVER

Operators Promise to Re-employ Maintenance Men Displaced by Bosses

## MANY LEAVE FOR EUROPE

Special Dispatch to Evening Public Ledger.  
 Wilkes-Barre, Pa., April 4.—The fact that there has been manifesting itself because anthracite operators in some instances have displaced pumpmen and driven with clerks and mine bosses has been checked by the prompt action of the district leaders of the anthracite strikers in protesting to the Operators' Committee in New York.

Members of the miners' Scale Committee, left in the field to make the strike 100 per cent effective, have received word from their leaders that the operators have promised prompt action in relation to violation of the tentative rule providing for maintenance men being kept at the collieries.

Thomas Kennedy, president of District No. 7, has sent the following message to the union leaders of three fields: "We have insisted to the operators that no person be dismissed whose occupation was necessary during the suspension, such as firemen, pumpmen, engineers, etc. We took the position that they should not be replaced by monthly men or bosses. The operators are going to take this matter up with the coal companies and they will let us know the result."

**Seek to Return Maintenance Men**  
 "We are trying to have all the men returned to their positions where they have been permitted to work during the suspension, and we are told that mine foremen and men should not take the place of any person whose occupation is continued during the suspension. Scale Committee members will try to find out the name of every company that has replaced maintenance men with bosses and monthly men."

The strikers believe that this promise of the operators' committee will soon straighten out a matter that has been causing uneasiness. It is reported that certain that there will not be friction over the maintenance men.

The strike order remained 100 per cent effective today. Operators put forth no effort in any of the districts to mine coal. No disorder of any nature occurred and police reports are that the miners are well behaved and staying very close to their homes.

**Exodus to Europe**  
 The exodus of mine workers continues unabated. Every train takes away a large number of men. One excursion train going to New York carried 700 passengers and 300 of these were anthracite workers bound for Europe. Many of them say they are not coming back.

The radical activity is not curbed, but is being carefully watched. Police authorities are ready to break up any attempted meetings and in that sense they have joined forces with the United Mine Workers of America in repelling the radical. I. W. W. literature is still being circulated, but it is steadily done.

Reports have reached the miners that the radical agents are paid agitators. The men claim that the radical menace has been much larger for the operators as the United Mine Workers of America.

Some of the smaller companies have brought all mines to the surface and drawn the fires, laying off the firemen.

Theatres are well patronized in the anthracite fields. Miners are enjoying a real holiday. Merchants report an estimated business but say it is due to month-end pay. The miners will receive their last pay in the middle of April and no more after that until peace is restored and the mines reopened. The belief remains strong that the strike will not last more than six weeks.

**Pottsville, Pa., April 4.**—Due to the high exchange rates on American money in Russia, Poland, Lithuania and Germany hundreds of anthracite miners are returning to their native lands. An additional party of strikers and their families left this region today for Europe. The steamship companies are busily informing the strikers that they have several thousand dollars they have in bank will buy twenty times that amount of European money, but no mention is made of the enormous prices asked for goods in those countries.

Visions of fine farms and comfortable cottages are being held to view. It is confidently expected that all of these pilgrims will return to America after having satisfied their curiosity as to their native lands once more.

The last available coal has been sent down the line from this region. There are 450,000 tons of coal remaining at the Landingville yards, which the Philadelphia and Reading Railway is drawing on slowly and which will give the road an appearance at least of coal hauling for another month. Most of this, however, is of the steam size and not available for the general consumer.

That the Schuylkill "river mine" is active is evidenced by the offer of coal here dredged from the river. The "river miners" will work constantly during the strike as the waters constantly bring a fresh supply of coal to the surface.

At the Schuylkill mine, the operators today that offers of increased wages made to bituminous miners in Fayette County were by non-union operators with the distinct purpose of getting union men to work for them. In some cases an increase of 30 per cent in wages was offered, but the miners realize this would be only temporary and they have refused to accept it.

**Mahanoy City, Pa., April 4.**—Three hundred men at the Lohigh Valley Road shops at Mahanoy have been at work half time beginning today and continuing until further notice, the result of the coal tie-up. The schedule is three eight-hour days per week. All the firemen at the Mahanoy Colliery are working today when a hoisting engineer, a pumpman and waterman were discharged for refusing to fire the boiler at the Mahanoy Colliery. Similar trouble was reported at the Lohigh Valley mines, but this was adjusted.

Coal was shipped during the night from the Lawrence and William Penn mines to Philadelphia.

# "STRIKERS" TALKING IT OVER



Photo shows groups of Gloucester City High School students who "walked out" when William Katcher, an instructor, was suspended by the Board of Education.

## N. J. Teacher Fired; Students on Strike

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problems and told me to use that in structing my classes.

"I spoke of sex problems freely before the class. The book tells of nearly every sex problem in a free and open manner. I deny having been familiar with any of my pupils. I may have placed my hand on a girl's shoulder while instructing her, but teachers often do that with boys and girls."

"Mr. Burns said I told a questionable joke in class. That is not so. I am explaining the necessity of careful and frequent bathing and the little anecdote I told simply was to emphasize the need of careful bathing."

"I will put the entire situation before the people of Gloucester. The action was taken against me because I testified fully about conditions in the schools here when Mr. Burns himself was given a hearing recently on charges of incompetency."

**Goes to Defense of Katcher**  
 Katcher was defended by Dr. J. Alonzo Beck, a member of the board. He disclosed that a majority of the members had voted to dismiss the teacher, but reconsidered, and decided on a public hearing.

"Katcher was teaching sex hygiene, which ordinarily is a ticklish subject," Beck said. "It was especially hard before mixed classes. I believe Mr. Burns' charges are exaggerated. He and Katcher have been at odds for some time."

Superintendent Burns asserted today that Katcher had invited the sons and daughters to leave their classes. This was denied by Katcher.

At the board meeting last night, Mr. Burns also spoke of John Jos, an instructor in French at the high school. He said Jos had several clashes with his pupils and that last Friday he and a boy exchanged blows.

"But he is a gentleman and a good teacher," Mr. Burns concluded. "The board re-elected Jos as instructor in French and increased his salary from \$1800 to \$1900."

**Difficulties Ahead for Lloyd George**  
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ists and Lloyd George may himself fail because the Russian revolutionaries will not accept the agreement to France and England. The Cabinet risks may move the rock upon which the British Empire's plans for the reconstruction of Europe will split.

**May Break With Others**  
 If the other nations do not agree to the reconstruction of Europe, the reconstruction of Europe will be a failure. The reconstruction of Europe will be a failure.

As the difficulties then, would be much greater than yesterday. Many of the members who have just voted in the reconstruction of Europe will split.

**FOOLISH QUESTIONS DON'T RILE THIS WISE BLUECOAT**  
 He Tries to Answer Those He Can, and as for the Rest—Why? Life's Short; Why Worry?

"Capitulate, Chinese! Don't ask me to fight like a man," said the motorist. "Well, sir, only my thinking of that man's poor wife saved the situation. It gave me time to get my teeth and listen to the small voice say, 'He polite.' He don't know no better. He polite."

That was a awful foolish question you asked me. Think a minute—wasn't it? It was a good thing I didn't answer it. But, Lord! I got so used to fool questions in this here business that I take them like they were good ideas. Yes, I do. See how I sure when you asked me to fight like a man, I told you the silliness of it, gentle and tactful."

**She Just Wanted to Know**  
 "Well, that's the way you got to be. Once I was on Chestnut street and a woman stopped me and says, 'Officer, where am I to find Dr. Stuart?' He don't know no better. He polite. That was a awful foolish question you asked me. Think a minute—wasn't it? It was a good thing I didn't answer it. But, Lord! I got so used to fool questions in this here business that I take them like they were good ideas. Yes, I do. See how I sure when you asked me to fight like a man, I told you the silliness of it, gentle and tactful."

# Operators' Ranks Reported Broken

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would forbid the development of new fields until the present fields are worked out. It would halt the existing production of over-development, bring production to balance demand, and eliminate the excess labor now engaged in the coal industry."

**Washington, April 4.**—(By A. P.)—The miners' strike in all union districts, both anthracite and bituminous, is 100 per cent effective, John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, declared today after going over reports to him from union leaders.

"Every man ordered out has gone out, and is staying out," Mr. Lewis declared. "From the non-union districts, where we have hopes of sympathetic action by unorganized men, my reports are insufficient to allow me to make a statement."

Mr. Lewis, continuing his testimony today before the House Labor Committee, described the miners' demands for a six-hour day and five-day week—as well as the strike—as largely a move to force regularity of employment.

"Men employed by the day," he said, "would get the same wages they are now getting, and put in less time, but the miners who dig coal would be paid as they are now for the number of tons of coal they produce."

**Engage in Cross-Fire**  
 "Who will that come out of?" Mr. Black demanded after figuring up his total. "Nobody," Mr. Lewis retorted. "Because your figures are absurd. I can't follow your mental gyrations on this subject in the field of mathematics."

Mr. Black pressed his calculations. "Congressmen, when the twelve-hour day was changed to the ten-hour day," Mr. Lewis interrupted, "the efficiency increased, and the production per man per day increased. The same effect continued when the ten-hour day was cut to eight hours. The efficiency increased more than sufficient to make its wage deficit and with France refusing to take up again and modify the Versailles Treaty, Europe is being steadily forced to some kind of agreement with the Bolsheviks as the only way of escaping general bankruptcy."

This may take either the form of open recognition such as Lloyd George proposes or the entrance of German and British business men in Russia with the support of their governments and with the Russian Government offering them extraordinary inducements. In this way Russia has displaced Germany as the center of the stage. The settlement of German reparations was regarded a few months ago as the way out of Europe's difficulties. Today it is the settlement of relations with Russia to which England and Germany at least are looking forward as the way out.

**Not Tied to Cost of Living**  
 Mr. Black declared that "while wages of anthracite miners now run purchase 18 per cent more than they could in 1920, the purchasing power of the farmer in my territory has been out 50 per cent since 1920," and asked Mr. Lewis:

"Do you think that industrial and transportation workers could stand the pressure to have them take some of the loss too?"

"It is well to remember that during that time wages went up and the cost of living went up. The miners have never accepted the principle that wage increases should be tied down to the bare cost of living. That theory would chain workers to a fixed economic level for always."

Miners' day wages in 1913 Mr. Lewis estimated at \$2.84, while the "basic day wage" under present conditions was placed at \$7.50.

**DISORDERS OCCUR IN WESTERN PENNA.**  
 Pittsburgh, April 4.—(By A. P.)—First disorders in the Western Pennsylvania coal district were reported from Erie and Washington Counties today where the authorities stated, high tension electric wires carrying current for coal mines had been cut and a detail of State police had been called out to disperse a crowd of demonstrators for non-union men to leave their work.

Payment of benefits to union miners in the Pittsburgh district is a question for the future, district officers of the United Mine Workers said today. Approximately 43,000 miners in the district have been out of employment during the last year, and considerable relief work has been necessary among them. This will be continued. All district officers are now without salaries, they having donated their services to the union for the duration of the strike.

Indications of the actual standing of the non-union mines in Western and Central Pennsylvania were expected to be available today. Operators and union officials have been unable thus far to determine the extent of the walkout in unorganized territory.

President John Brady has information from district No. 2 that several thousand unorganized mine workers have joined the union cause.

**CHARLESTON, W. Va., April 4.**—(By A. P.)—Conflicting statements concerning the success of the nine-strike call in Southern West Virginia came from operators and union headquarters yesterday, and developments more clearly defining the situation were looked for today.

While spokesmen for the operators stated that the non-union fields had been producing at normal rate and that even in the organized fields the suspension had been far from complete, union leaders maintained that union production was completely suspended and that non-union fields were rapidly flocking to the support of the strikers.

**Cumberland, Md., April 4.**—(By A. P.)—A number of operators have petitioned representatives of the miners for a conference, seeking a continuation of the basic agreement for the Georges Creek and Upper Potomac regions.

This agreement provides that there be no suspension of work for a period of at least ninety days subsequent to March 31. The operators say that the miners broke the agreement by walking out April 1, and they intend forcing the men to show their hand by asking for a conference.

The agreement is not recognized by the United Mine Workers of America, although it calls for the union scale.

**Altoona, Pa., April 4.**—(By A. P.)—Operators declared today that many of the non-union miners would leave their posts, and that the unorganized workers in the Central Pennsylvania field would be able to keep the mines running in fairly good shape.

# See G. O. P. Machine in State Weakening

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by the Secretary of the Commonwealth. A long-distance phone call showed that the petitions had been received and were the first to come in. Mr. Pinchot's were the second.

**Views From Rural Districts**  
 The feeling in the rural districts over the efforts of the harmony slate makers was expressed in a letter received by W. H. Folwell, chairman of the Fisher Committee, from J. Blair Sutton, Secretary and Treasurer of the Indiana County Fisher Committee. An extract from the letter is as follows:

"We have been watching with more than ordinary interest the juggling of the political situation by the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh leaders. It is always interesting to watch a death struggle, and also a contest that involves a meat ticket, which is, of course, what it means to the Vares and their kind."

Petitions for former Senator Frank P. Croft, of Montgomery County, as a candidate for Governor are in circulation. Croft's friends are urging him as a harmony candidate.

Something interesting in the State situation may develop at a dinner tonight to Peter E. Smith, Vares leader of the Forty-seventh Ward, in Moore Hall, 1315 North Broad street. Senator Vares, Register of Wills Campbell, Richard Wiegman, president of Council, Harry A. Mackey and others will speak.

A novelty will be a woman toastmaster, Mrs. Caroline Moore. And to make it even more interesting the women in attendance will vote on the question of men going without coats in the summer time. It all depends on the kind of shirt, say the women.

It developed today that Mrs. Warburton, who created a sensation by publicly declaring for Pinchot for Governor, has been doing some very practical work for the forester.

Vares and urged him to turn in for Pinchot. The Senator and Mrs. Warburton had a most interesting conference. The Senator felt, however, that if he announced for Pinchot, the rank and file of Organization men would think he had made too great a change in his political philosophy for them to understand.

**Harrisburg, Pa., April 4.**—Nominating petitions for Commissioner of Banking John S. Fisher for the Republican nomination for Governor at the May primary were entered at the State Bureau of Elections this morning. The petitions came by special delivery letter from Mr. Fisher's Philadelphia committee headquarters and were signed by most of the eastern counties of the State. Included in the list were more than a dozen from western counties. Supplemental petitions will probably be filed later in the day.

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 While Mrs. Katherine Provost, 1816 Spring Garden street, was at a theatre last night, a thief entered her house and stole \$80 in cash and jewelry valued at \$175.

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